

Soy harvest increased by management

NEWARK, Del. - Don't throw away your profits on poor harvest practices. Soybean growers can add as much as \$18 per acre to their returns this fall through better harvest management. Tom Williams, extension agricultural engineer at the University of Delaware, says the average soybean grower loses as much as three bushels per acre through poor harvest management.

With today's soybean prices close to \$6 per bushel, there's good monetary incentive for producers to harvest as many beans as possible.

Here are some steps Williams recommends to assure a more profitable soybean harvest:

Begin harvesting when soybean seed moisture reaches 14 percent. Shatter

losses increase markedly when moisture levels drop below 11.5 per cent.

Harvest at an average combine speed between 2.5 and 3 miles per hour. Combines operate most efficiently at that range - and the cutter bar is allowed to ride down for maximum cut.

Count lost soybeans already on the ground before harvest; pre-harvest losses should not be charged against combining. Four beans per square foot indicate a bushel lost per acre.

Match ground speed to combine reel speed. Best speed ratio is a reel speed of 1.25 times the combine ground speed.

Cut soybeans as close to the ground as possible. The goal is to harvest all the pods - even the very lowest. Tests show a 10 per cent reduction

in harvest losses when soybeans are cut at 2 1/2 inches. The new floating cutter bars substantially reduce this harvesting loss.

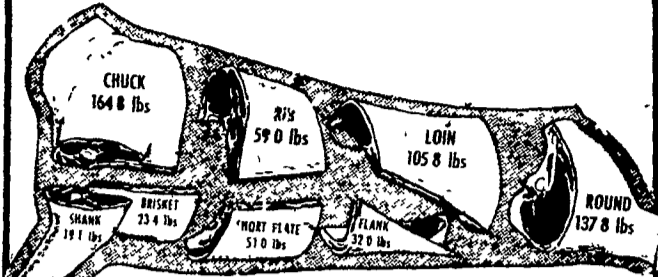
Measure soybean losses from cutting, gathering and threshing operations to pinpoint necessary adjustments.

Continually adjust the combine to changing crop conditions.

For more information on cutting losses, contact the county extension office in Georgetown, Dover, or Newark. Ask for a copy of "A Guide for Measuring Soybean Harvest Losses."

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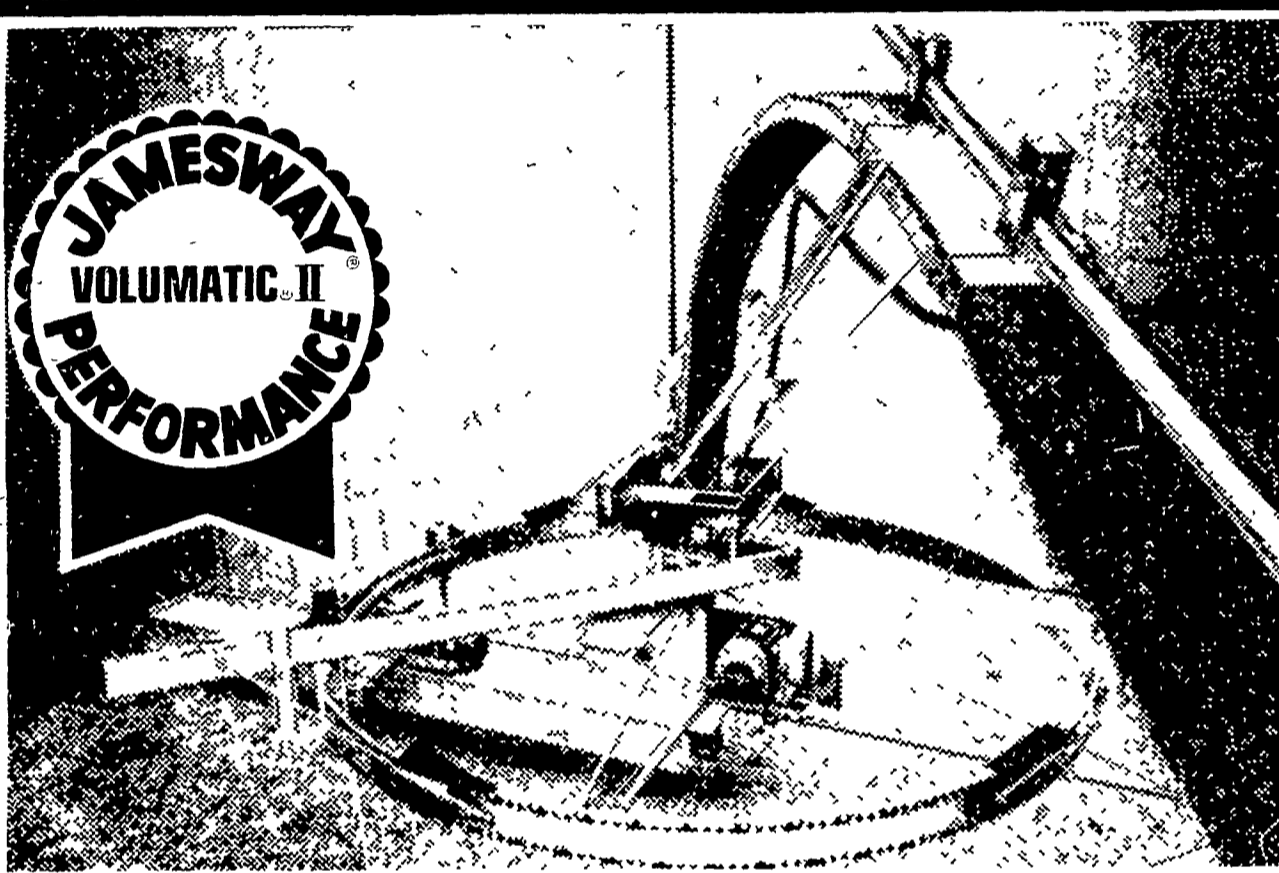
Lawn care tips offered

UNIVERSITY PARK - One of the best ways to improve or rejuvenate lawns that have suffered from prolonged drought conditions or been seriously weakened by excessive rainfall causing the leaching and depletion of nutrients is to stimulate growth with fertilizer. This also applies to thin and poorly-colored lawns. Even lawns which have a good turf should be fertilized to maintain green color and a dense stand of desirable grasses.

A high nitrogen fertilizer such as 10-6-4 applied at the rate of 20 to 25 pounds every 1000 square feet is recommended. Fertilizer of a different analysis having a ratio similar to 10-6-4 may also be used. The rate of

application should be adjusted so as to provide an equivalent amount of nitrogen. However, homeowners should heed the following cautions:

In order to obtain satisfactory results, proper application is necessary. Make sure the rate of application is correct. Do not apply fertilizer when the grass is wet. Spread fertilizer evenly and avoid missing areas between spreader widths. Improper application of fertilizer can ruin a lawn because of burning or it will produce a pattern of light and dark streaks. Fertilizing now will not only improve its appearance this fall but will prepare it better for the battle against crabgrass and other weeds next year.



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